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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LENEXA POLICE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES \$525,000 TO HIRE SEVEN NEW OFFICERS

WICHITA, Kan. -- United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced today that **the United States Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) has awarded the Lenexa Police Department a grant totaling \$525,000 to hire seven officers.**

This grant was awarded under the COPS grant program as part of \$99.3 million in grants to 204 law enforcement agencies across the country. These officers will be engaged in community policing, homeland security activities and provide patrol coverage for a fifth patrol district put in place in January 2003. The hiring program provides funding for 75 percent of the total salary and benefits of each officer hired for three years, up to a maximum of \$75,000 per officer. The remainder is to be paid by state or local funds.

Since 1995, COPS has helped nearly 13,000 law enforcement agencies make their communities safer by funding the hiring of more than 118,000 officers. In addition to helping local law enforcement agencies expand their ranks, the COPS Office has been a catalyst for innovations in community policing. Statistics indicate that 86 percent of American communities employ community policing.

"This money will put seven additional full-time officers in the Lenexa community," Melgren said. "Community policing builds partnerships between citizens and law enforcement officers and helps to make our communities safer."

Chief Ellen Hanson advises that these seven officers will help bring the schedule closer to current minimum coverage at most shifts and will allow for more attention to Homeland Security issues.